SSA	Total Villages	Villages with VPTs	Uncovered Villages
Sangli	708	708	0
Satara	1573	1415	158
Sindhudurg	772	536	236
Solapur	1163	1138	25
Wardha	1015	860	155
Yeotmal	1751	1039	712
TOTAL	42038	31005	11033

Provision of public telephones in the villages

1246. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government propose to connect all the villages in the country by public telephone; and

(b) how many of these are proposed to be provided during this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Out of 607, 491 villages, 358, 538 villages have been provided with public telephone facilities till 1st March, 2000. Subject to the availability of resources and achievement of the target fixed for Private Basic Service Providers all the remaining 248,953 villages will be covered gradully by the end of 9th Plan. Department plans to provide 45,000 village public telephones during the year 1999-2000.

Action against postal employees involved in crimes

1247. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a special Court in Jabalpur has awarded a senior postal officer vigorous imprisonment and fine for cheating postal department;

(b) if so, the details of the case; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take against officers and employees who are involved in various crimes viz. late and non-delivery of Money Orders and for cheating of exchequer for lost Vikaspatras/Bonds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, five subordinate postal officials have been awarded Regorous Imprisonment and fine by the Special Judge (CBI), Jabalpur during the period 1998-99, due to their conviction in